

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5972

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

FOLLOWING TEXT OF FEBRUARY 17 LETTER FROM
ALGERIAN PERM REP TO CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF 24, ENCLOSING
TEXT OF LETTER FROM ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA.
LETTER HAS BEEN CIRCULATED AS GA DOCUMENT (A/AC.109/514).

QUOTE:

A/AC.109/514

LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1976 FROM THE PERAMENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ALGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO TRANSMIT TO YOU HERewith A LONG MESSAGE
FROM HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA, MEMBER OF
THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA, CONCERNING

THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE PROBLEM OF WESTERN SAHARA. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD HAVE THIS LETTER CIRCULATED AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

(SIGNED) ABDELLATIF RAHAL
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ALGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

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QUOTE:

ENCLOSURE

SIR, THE STEADY DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION IN WESTERN SAHARA ONCE AGAIN COMPELS US SOLEMNLY TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE DANGERS INHERENT IN SUCH AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION. RECOGNIZING THESE DANGERS, ALGERIA HAS DONE ITS UTMOST NOT TO LEND ITSELF TO THE ARGUMENTS OF VIOLENCE AND PROVOCATION. THIS, ON 27 JANUARY 1976, THE ESCORT OF A CONVOY BRINGING FOOD AND MEDICAMENTS TO THE PEOPLES OF THE SAHARA WHO HAD BEEN THE VICTIMS OF MOROCCAN AGGRESSION WAS ENGAGED BY THE ROYAL MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES. THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT, REGARDLESS OF THE COST TO ITSELF, ENDEAVOURED TO LIMIT THE SCOPE OF THE INCIDENT, WHICH COULD HAVE PROVOKED A MORE WIDESPREAD CONFLAGRATION. IF ONE FOLLOWS THE LOGIC OF MOROCCO'S POLICY OF AGGRESSION, THE SITUATION CAN ONLY LEAD TO AN AGGRAVATION OF THE CONFLICT, WHICH IS CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE AND HAS RESULTED IN MASSACRES OF PEOPLE AND IN THE RADICALIZATION OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE.

ON 15 FEBRUARY 1976, THE SAHARAN RESISTANCE, LED BY THE FRENTE POPULAR PARA LA LIBERACION DE SAGUIA EL HAMRA Y RIO DE ORO (FRENTE POLISARIO), INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES ON THE MOROCCAN OCCUPATION FORCES. THAT PROMPTED THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPLICATE ALGERIA IN ORDER TO ADD CONFUSION TO THE FACTS UNDERLYING THE PROBLEM AND THIS TO CREATE DIVERSIONS AND MAKE EXTRAPOLATIONS WHICH WOULD MASK UNCLASSIFIED

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THE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH MOROCCO SHARES WITH ITS OTHER PARTNERS IN PERPETRATING AGGRESSION IN WESTERN SAHARA. AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION, ISSUED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT, SOUGHT TO CONFRONT ALGERIA WITH THE ALTERNATIVE OF WAR. ALGERIA TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERScore THE DANGEROUS ESCALATION WHICH IS PART OF A METICULOUSLY PREPARED PLAN OF AGGRESSIONS; THOSE WHO HAVE CAUSED THAT ESCALATION BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR

DENYING THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE AND
FOR THE THREATS WHICH ARE JEOPARDIZING THE PEACE AND SECURITY
OF THE ENTIRE REGION.

THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED
NATIONS, AMBASSADOR OLOF RYDBECK, WHO HAS JUST VISITED
WESTERN SAHARA, UNDOUBTEDLY OBSERVED THIS DANGEROUS PROCESS
OF DETERIORATION WHICH IS DEVELOPING AND WHICH IT IS URGENT
AND IMPERATIVE TO HALT.

ALGERIA, AS A COUNTRY WHICH IS CONCERNED AND INTERESTED
AND DEEPLY COMMITTED TO SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLES STRUGGLING
FOR THEIR FREEDOM, REAFFIRMS ITS DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE
TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AIMED AT THE ATTAINMENT OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE SAHARAN
PEOPLE TO FREEDOM AND DIGNITY THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF THEIR
RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION IN A FREE AND GENUINE
REFERENDUM.

ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA
MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF ALGERIA.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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